

**WOMEN'S EMPATHY REFLECTED IN *THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN* BY
PAULA HAWKINS (2015) : A FEMINIST APPROACH**



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by:

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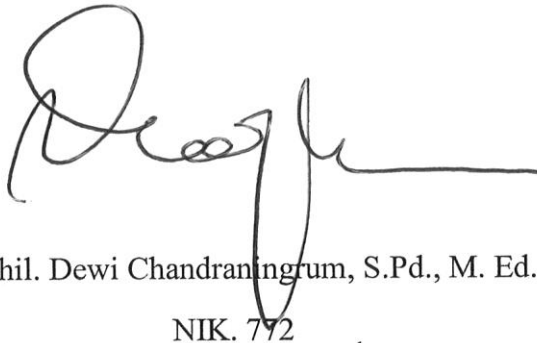
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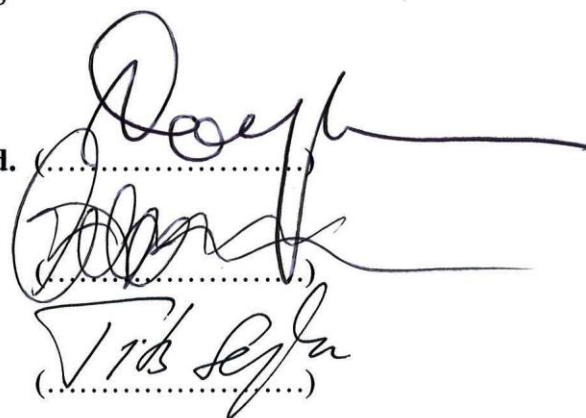
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Abstrak

Penelitian ini menceritakan karakter tentang seseorang di dalam novel yang bernama Rachel yang sedang menunjukkan bahwa wanita mempunyai sifat empati terhadap orang lain dengan cara ikut membantu kasus orang lain yang sedang membutuhkan bantuan dan dukungan. Penelitian ini mendeskripsikan tentang bagaimana Rachel menggambarkan bahwa dia menunjukkan sikap empati terhadap tokoh lain di dalam novel *The Girl on The Train*. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menggambarkan bagaimana karakter empati yang ada pada tokoh Rachel serta memperlihatkan alasan kenapa empati wanita ditujukan secara rinci oleh pengarang di dalam novel *The Girl on The Train*. Penelitian ini bersifat kualitatif dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif. Penelitian ini di analisis dengan menggunakan teori feminist. Analisis tersebut digunakan untuk mendeskripsikan dan memperlihatkan alasan empati seorang wanita di dalam novel ini. Penelitian ini memiliki beberapa kesimpulan. Pertama, ada 3 prinsip yang digunakan dalam menggambarkan bagaimana karakter empati yang ada pada tokoh Rachel di novel *The Girl on The Train*, yaitu pikiran yang positif, kata yang bagus dan tindakan yang nyata. Kedua, ada Prinsip Feminist yang terdiri dari 3 elemen yaitu ketidaksamaan, penekanan. dan kedudukan seseorang.

Kata Kunci: empati wanita, pendekatan feminist, *the girl on the train*.

Abstract

This research tells about the character of someone in a novel called Rachel who is showing that women have empathy for others by helping others in case of needing help and support. This study describes how Rachel described that she showed empathy towards other characters in the novel *The Girl on The Train*. The purpose of this research is to describe the character of empathy in Rachel's character and show the reason why women's empathy is addressed specifically by the author in the novel *The Girl on The Train*. This research is qualitative using descriptive method. This research was analyzed using feminist theory. The analysis is used to describe and demonstrate the reason for a woman's empathy in this novel. This research has several conclusions. First, there are 3 principles that are used in describing the character of empathy in Rachel's character in *The Girl on The Train*, namely positive thoughts, good words and real actions. Second, there is a Feminist Principle which consists of 3 elements namely inequality, emphasis. and one's position.

Keywords: women's empathy, feminist approach, the girl on the train

1. INTRODUCTION

Empathy is the ability to recognize and share in other people's experiences. Women have a relatively less sense of aggressiveness than men, and women are more likely to express their aggressiveness in a verbal and rational way. The value of women is higher in the aspect of empathy, where empathy includes the orientation of others, feelings of concern, and personal

suffering. More extreme, there are still many humans in the world that is not touched his heart (even tends not to care when seeing others suffer from sadness). It is built mainly in males than in females. Women are more easily empathetic about the suffering of others (especially the people) than men. However, such measures are likely to be subjective and empathy may be more related to gender roles than sex.

The theory of Feminism is an ideology of women's liberation, because that is inherent in all of its approach is the belief that women suffer injustice because of their gender (Humm, 2002). Feminism is theory on understanding the nature of gender inequality to analyze gender inequality. Theme explored in feminism include discrimination, objectification (especially sexual objectification), oppression, patriarchy, stereotyping art history, and contemporary art and aesthetics (Heroepoetri& Valentina, 2004:34). One of causes of feminism is patriarchy, which is the origin of the concept of equality between men and women, and also the concept of woman. It examines women's social roles, experience, interest, chores, and feminist politics in a variety of fields, like : economics, literature, philosophy, and education.(English Education : jurnalTadrisBahasaInggrsvol 9(2), 2016,429-443)

We can find women empathy in this novel. Rachel as the character who have women empathy. She helping someone in other character by her empathy. The feeling that must be have from women. She used her feel to helping her ex husband fro looking for his wife.

2. METHOD

This study is a descriptive qualitative research. The researcher conducts two objects of this study as follows, formal object and material object. The formal object is discussing about the issue of motives of murder by using psychoanalytical analysis, the material object is Paula Hawkin's novel published by Random House. There are two data sources can be found in this study, as follows: primary data source and secondary data source. Primary data source is *The Girl on The Train* novel. Secondary data source consisting books, journal, articles and internet to complete the data analysis. In the techniques of collecting data, the researcher uses five steps are follows: 1) Reading repeatedly the novel "*The Girl on the Train*", 2) Browsing and reading the related articles and some information needed in the internet. 3) Taking notes of the important related with the study. 4) Identifying the problem in *The Girl on The Train* and finding the data. 5) Making conclusion and its suggestion based on the results.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Women's Empathy Analysis

Positive thinking is not a concept that everyone believes and follows. Some consider it as nonsense, and scoff at people who follow it. However, there is growing number of people, who accept positive thinking as a fact, and believe in its effectiveness. There is the quotation from the novel.

"I think the first possibility is most likely, and four is a strong contender, too, because Megan is an independent, wilful woman, I'm sure of it. And if she were having an affair, she might need to get away to clear her head, mightn't she? Five does not seem especially likely, since murder by a stranger isn't all that common." (The girl, p: 95)

From the quotation above, the researcher concludes that Rachel has a positive thinking character with other people. It can be evidence of the statement that appears from Rachel in this novel.

Good words means the word that appears or build from a good choice of meaning.

"That thing with the police," I said "it was a misunderstanding. There's no problem with me and Tom, and I don't like about that missing girl. You don't have to worry about it." she gave me another hug and made us both a cup of tea. I thought about taking advantage of the good will I'd engendered and telling her about the job situation, but I didn't want to spoil her evening." (The girl, p: 175)

From the quotation above, it is concluded that Rachel gives good words for person who she is talking about. She gives words that it makes the person doesn't worry again.

Real action means doing something that is planned before. It's related to giving advantage or made alteration. There is an evidence from the novel.

"I wasn't sure at first. I stared at the picture, trying to conjure up the image of the man I saw with her that day, his head bent as he stooped to embrace her.

"That's him," "I think that's him."

"You're not sure?"

"I think that's him."

He withdrew the picture and scrutinized it himself for a moment. "You saw them kissing, that's what you said? Last Friday, was it? A week ago?"

"Yes, that's right. Friday morning. They were outside, in the garden." (The girl, p: 148)

From the quotation above, it is concluded that Rachel gives real action for police to help to identify whose people behind the loss of Megan.

3.2. The Elements of Feminist Analysis

The extent of inequality. Gender inequality is the idea and situation that women and men are not equal, the relation with empathy is sense of fairness

“I don’t want to push you into doing something you don’t want to do,” Kamal says. “I just want you to consider the possibility that contacting Mac might help you. And it’s not because I believe that you owe him anything. Do you see? I believe that he owes you. I understand your guilt, I do but he abandoned you. You were alone, afraid, panicking, grieving. He left you on your own in that house. It’s no wonder you cannot sleep. Of that house .it’s no wonder you cannot sleep. Of that house. Of course the idea of sleeping frightens you: you fell asleep and something terrible happened to you. And the one person who should have helped you and the one person who should have helped you left you all alone.” (The girl, p: 316)

From the quotation bellow means Kamal (men) didn’t want his opinion or suggestion must be doing of the partner who his talk. So it means that between men and women have inequality where the men higher than the women.

Oppressiveness is something that is hard to deal with or causes discomfort. The relation with empathy is feeling of being oppressed

“I pick up my handbag and my keys. I’m going to the Landis down the road. I don’t care that it’s not yet nine o’clock in the morning, I’m frightened and I don’t want to have to think. If I take some painkillers and have a drink now, I can put myself out, I can sleep all day. I’ll face it later. I get to the front door, my hand poised above the handle, then I stop.” (The girl, p: 154)

From the quotation above, it is conclude that Rachel feels oppressed in her life. Rachel have a feeling oppressed because she a women who think about relation between many people.

Patriarchy in traditional, the elder men had power over the younger generations of men. In modern patriarchy, some men hold more power by virtue of position of author, and this hierarchy of power is considered acceptable. Feminist theorist have expanded the definition of patriarchal society to describe a systematic bias against women.

“He starts to cry, and I am chocking, too, crying for infant who never existed, the child of a woman I never knew. But the horror of it is almost too. Much too bear. I cannot understand how Scott is still breathing. It should have killed him. Somehow, though, he is still here .(The Girl,p: 298)

From the quotation above means that men has high position in life but women also will be there or in beside him. And the statement proved the element of feminist approach based Simone theory.

“I know this is... this is really weird , but i just need to go somewhere, somewhere they won't be waiting for me. I can't go to my mother's , my friends' I'm just Driving since I left the police station...” there's a catch in his voice. “ I just need on hour or two . to sit, to think. Without them, without the police, without people asking me fucking questions I'm sorry, but could I come to your house?” (The girl. p : 297)

The Statement above is the second prove from the element patriarchy element based on Simone theory. It can explain about Rachel who has role of feminist must be have a high position from men, but she still give caring for a men.

3.3 Discussion

Based on the results of the study, this novel has written by Paula Hawkins in 2015. This novel tells about the girl who positive thinking, giving good words and doing a real action. The first is positive thinking, the feels is very important for us. Positive thinking means is not a concept that everyone believes and follows. Some consider it as nonsense, and scoff at people who follow it. However, there is growing number of people, who accept positive thinking as a fact, and believe in its effectiveness. The second is giving good words, it explain about what makes one act (Sargent, cited by Howard, 1999) states that giving good words is the impact of one's interaction with the situation it faces (Siagian, 2004). The last is real action or doing real action. It explain about the reaction of the emotion to the message received by the nerve and if on a continuous level generates a habit to learn, and ultimately this behavior is done because of the encouragement of habit factors. Paula Hawkins has illustrated the feminist through the character and the plot of the play. It can be seen through their dialogue in the play.

Paula Hawkins has informed that the novel took her 6 months of writing full time to complete. It is a much more serious book than her previous four novels and deals with issues of drug abuse, alcoholism and domestic violence among others. The novel was a bestseller in hardback and the publisher pressed back the publication of the paperback version several times in order to capitalize on its success for as long as possible.

Feminism sees women's empathy nowadays is very important because Empathy is the ability to recognize and share in other people's experiences. Women have a relatively

less sense of aggressiveness than men, and women are more likely to express their aggressiveness in a verbal and rational way.

Based on feminist analysis, there are elements of feminist theory by Simone Beauvoir. He explains 3 elements of feminist theory which there is a relation with existentialist theory too. There are the extent of inadequacy, oppressiveness, and patriarchy. The extent of inadequacy means on gender inequality recognize that women's position in, and experience of, social situations are not only different but also unequal to men's. Inequality is the idea and situation that Women and men are not equal. From the analysis above, there are a different from man and woman which prove in the dialogue of the novel.

The second is oppressiveness means oppressiveness women did not have the same legal and political rights as men and were under control of fathers and husbands in almost all societies. From the analysis above, it explain about the character of Rachel who has a feeling of oppressed. The third is patriarchy, it means a social system in which family systems or entire societies are organized around the idea of father-rule, where males are the primary authority figures. Patriarchy is describes a general structure in which men have power over women. But the patriarchy have a relation feminist, so in here woman have over power like a man. From the analysis above, that men has high position in life but women also will be there or in beside him. And the statement proved the element of feminist approach based Simone theory and It can explain about Rachel who has role of feminist must be have a high position from men, but she still give caring for a men. So, the major principle of feminist approach can be motivated of the finding in the analysis above. It can be explain by the prove from the dialogues of the novel.

The relation between the Empathy gives a basis for moral action based not on how you would like to be treated (as with the Golden Rule), but how the other would. However, some moral philosophers have criticized empathy as a source of moral action. A major source for feminist ethics has been the conclusion of Carol Gilligan, drawn from interviews with mostly middle- and upper-middleclass U.S. men and women at different ages, that women's moral reasoning is more likely than men's to employ an "ethic of care," the core of which is "not to turn away from someone in need" (Gilligan and Attanucci 1988:73), rather than impersonal justice, the core of which is "not to treat others unfairly" (1988:73). Gilligan approvingly cites research that shows, "the moral judgments of women differ from those of men in the greater extent to which women's judgments are tied to feelings of empathy and compassion" (Gilligan 1982:69).

4. CONCLUSION

There are 2 finding in this research. The first finding is tell about the girl who positive thinking, giving good words and doing a real action. The first is positive thinking, the feels is very important for us. Positive thinking means is not a concept that everyone believes and follows. Some consider it as nonsense, and scoff at people who follow it. However, there is growing number of people, who accept positive thinking as a fact, and believe in its effectiveness. The second is giving good words, it explain about what makes one act (Sargent, cited by Howard, 1999) states that giving good words is the impact of one's interaction with the situation it faces (Siagian, 2004). The last is real action or doing real action. It explain about the reaction of the emotion to the message received by the nerve and if on a continuous level generates a habit to learn, and ultimately this behavior is done because of the encouragement of habit factors. Paula Hawkins has illustrated the feminist through the character and the plot of the play. It can be seen through their dialogue in the play.

The second finding is tell about Feminism sees women's empathy nowadays is very important because Empathy is the ability to recognize and share in other people's experiences. Women have a relatively less sense of aggressiveness than men, and women are more likely to express their aggressiveness in a verbal and rational way. From this study, There are elements of feminist theory by Simone Beauvoir. He explains 3 elements of feminist theory which there is a relation with existentialist theory too. There are the extent of inequality, oppressiveness, and patriarchy.

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